

THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

Vol. III.—No. 33

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11th, 1916

Price One Penny

SCOTLAND'S SHAME: By P. J. DOLLAN

In the topsy-turvy times of War we hear a lot about Scotland's pride and Scotland's glory, and very little about Scotland's shame. Yet the cause of that shame will be the destruction of her glory and pride if it is not removed. That cause is bad housing, which in Scotland is probably worse than in any other country in the world which has come within the scope of the Industrial revolution. While thousands of her best sons are dying for glory and pride on a foreign field of battle, as many more with women and children are being shamefully crushed into oblivion by the insanitary housing conditions which prevail throughout the land. Scotsmen and women have much reason to fight—for better houses. When their children are reared in houses and not in tenements, there will be glory and pride in abundance, and little need to seek it abroad and by War.

At least two-thirds of the population of Scotland are housed in conditions which in the light of progress can only be described as insanitary. In Glasgow alone over 600,000 persons are forced to live in one and two apartment houses, which are deficient in all those appliances which are necessary for the efficiency, sanitation, and morality of family life. In the other towns, such as Dundee, Paisley, Greenock, Clydebank, Coatbridge, the same conditions obtain: the working class families are huddled together irrespective of sex or number. It is in such an environment that the workers are expected to produce temperate, moral, and upright citizens, clean in their bodies and in their souls. The expectation is sometimes realised, for the day of miracles is not yet past. It is, indeed, little short of miraculous that the Scottish workers do make moral and social progress, despite horrible housing conditions. Some men are stronger than their environment.

Scotland's vices are mainly due to her housing conditions. No one who has been in the slums of a Scottish town can blame the dwellers therein for intemperance; it is the only avenue of escape apparently open to them from the hell of their every-day life. Crowded together in holes like so many caged animals, and enclosed in a demoralising atmosphere of intemperance to them is a necessity as a relief. Intemperance is their romance; intemperance not only with regard to liquor, but with regard to every human instinct and emotion. Where slums abound there you find the greatest amount of drunkenness, the largest families, most deaths, an excessive number of domestic quarrels, and personal assaults, and immorality of varying kinds. Slums are germinating beds for intemperance in everything that wastes life and its purpose. They are the weed conservatories of the human garden, and their destruction is essential to progress. What slums produce is revealed in the following report of a Court case, which appeared

in the *Glasgow Herald* of November 1st. The report reads:—

In the High Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh yesterday a badged man, aged 21, remitted from Glasgow, was sent to prison by the Lord Justice-Clerk for 12 months for an offence under the Criminal Law Amendment Act with a girl of 11. Counsel for the prisoner submitted that the crime was due to circumstances under which the prisoner found himself. He belonged to a family of poor means, living in a crowded house, and it was the custom of the girl to sleep with the prisoner and another young man. The prisoner was employed in a shipbuilding yard, and



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he said he was under the influence of drink when the crime was committed.

The Lord Justice-Clerk pointed out that the charge said the crime was committed for four months.

Counsel submitted that the prisoner had pleaded guilty to the charge.

In passing sentence the Lord Justice-Clerk said the prisoner had pleaded guilty to what was undoubtedly a very serious offence. On the other hand, the circumstances were such, owing to no fault of the prisoner but to a lamentable state of things so far as housing was concerned, that it was almost impossible but that offences of this kind would be committed. That was really one of the miseries of the prisoner's position not brought about by himself, but his Lordship thought it might legitimately be taken into account in determining the sentence, which was a very light one for such an offence, although it was not without precedent.—November 1st, 1916.

In the Judge's summing up there is the admission that sexual immorality is in many cases the outcome of insanitary housing. Yet in all the big cities and towns of Scotland there are thousands of families crowded together in a way that makes privacy between the sexes impossible, and so we have cases such as that recorded above. Sexual decency and respect are difficult in such circumstances, and it is creditable to the natural

morality of the Scottish people that unnatural offences are as rare as they are. Still, the conditions are such that they breed vice in persons who would otherwise be virtuous, and these conditions being the outcome of capitalism, we can honestly state that most immorality is due to capitalism. It is not only in the big towns that housing is bad; the provinces are no better off. In the far off Highlands some people are actually living in houses without windows or chimneys!

In the mining districts particularly there is much overcrowding, and the moral and physical consequences are disastrous. Many of the houses are such that one apartment is often the kitchen, scullery, bathroom, dining-room, washhouse, pantry, bedroom, and living-room combined. Coals are stored beneath the bed, and at night the wet clothes of the miners are dried before the fire in the room where the family lie sleeping. Lavatory accommodation is a luxury enjoyed by the few, and bathrooms are as scarce as sovereigns now are. Miners coming home from the pit have to perform their ablutions before the other members of the family; such a thing as a tub-bath is seldom private. In place of lavatories there are dry-closets, which are fertile sources of disease and epidemics, as invariably they are built in close proximity to the houses. One dry-closet has often to serve for a dozen or more families. In a Lanarkshire district hundreds of miners' families are obliged to live in houses which three years ago were condemned as insanitary and unfit for human habitation. There are thousands of such houses—Glasgow has 10,000 of them—occupied by human beings!

While her people are housed under such conditions, Scotland has little reason to be proud. Her shame is written plain in the history of our time, and it will be her downfall if it is not effaced. No nation will flourish by overcrowding its people in slums. A great nation must have spacious homes for its people. While the War continues, we are told, there can be no housing reform. In that case the War has got to stop. Daily the War is costing the British taxpayers £6,000,000, which sum would suffice to provide 24,000 three and four-apartment cottages, set in gardens, and fitted with modern conveniences. Each of these cottages, for site and building, would cost £350 if the money was provided free of interest. If Scotland wants these houses her people cannot afford to waste their wealth in War. If the War is to be one of exhaustion, then slums will be the heritage of the next generation, and they will curse us for our stupidity. For our children's sake, if not for our own, let us make war on the slums and let there be no peace in that war until the cause of Scotland's shame is removed.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

HOW THEY APPEAL TO WOMEN VOTERS.

"Peace, eight hours, and a full dinner pail" are the election cries used to catch the American women voters.

This shows that votes for women comes as a social blessing, for who can deny that these are better cries with more humanity and commonsense in them than those that sway the average election in which men alone vote.

The women must see to it that the politicians who make use of such cries to catch their votes are kept up to the mark!

Chicago Republicans complain that "All that the women can say is:—

"Wilson kept us out of the War," and
"I am for Wilson because my boys are alive and not dead."

Writing of the Australian attitude towards Conscription, *The Nation* says:—"The women's vote, once claimed as conscriptionist, is now declared to have been largely given for free service."

"The Australian vote shows that this conception of freedom governs even the passionate affection for the Motherland, and prompts the brothers and sisters of the men who died for us in Gallipoli to say: 'Yes, we are with you; but you must leave us free.'"

It will be remembered that the N.U.R. demanded the same minimum for women as for men, but that the minimum remained the maximum. Now the War bonus won by the men, "has to be arranged" for the women.

The Women's Land Service League is showing a poster in which a departing soldier says to the woman saying good-bye to him, "I leave the land to you." But the words are lies, the soldiers' wives and sisters do not own the land, and when they are summoned to toil on it they go as sweated, and little-thought-of workers. The poster asks for 5,000 educated women to work on the land. Will those women be able to maintain themselves on the wage they earn?

A LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Mr. W. H. Dickinson and Mr. Aneurin Williams have announced that for the last 18 months a small private Society of 200 members called the League of Nations Society has met to discuss this question. It now puts forward the following scheme:—

(a) That members of the league shall refer all disputes either to a judicial tribunal, or to a council of inquiry and conciliation;

(b) That the awards of the judicial tribunal shall be enforced;

(c) Mutual protection against attack by any Power which refuses to refer the dispute to a tribunal or council.

But these provisions, if carried out, are not, we fear, enough to prevent War. Trade rivalry, which is heightened by tariff walls and the competition to exploit subject peoples by rival groups of financiers are the chief cause of Wars and these things the scheme does not touch. There is nothing in the scheme to prevent a majority group

trying to enforce its decisions upon a minority group of nations, and so causing a future War in which there might be no neutrals.

INDUSTRIAL CONSCRIPTION.

THE SCHEME

Complete industrial conscription has come gradually, but the scheme for it is now complete and in a few short months every worker of military age will find himself in its toils. On Saturday, November 4th, at the Shoreditch Tribunal, the Military Representative revealed the plan. He said that men who are not medically fit for the Army are to be enrolled at the Labour Exchange and used as substitutes for fit men who are now in munition factories. The men enrolled at the Labour Exchanges are to be offered the alternative of munition work or the Army, although they are unfit for the latter. As a condition of getting work they are to sign "voluntarily" a form which will bind them to work wherever the Ministry of Munitions may direct till the end of the War at 7d. per hour or the current rate of the job (in practice it will be 7d.) and an additional 2s. 6d. a week if he has four or five children (boys under 14, girls under 16), or 5s. a week if he has six or more children. A subsistence allowance of 2s. 6d. per day if he is obliged owing to the work to live away from his dependants. The man will be liable to return to military service at any time.

Under the auspices of the Leyton W.S.F., a

MEETING TO PROTEST AGAINST THE IMPRISONMENT OF EDWARD FULLER,

will take place at
42 FOREST LANE, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11th,
7 p.m.

Speakers: Miss SYLVIA PARKHURST, Mrs. BOUVIER.
Chair: Mr. STANLEY JAMES.

Admission Free.

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Editor: SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Published by the Workers' Suffrage Federation.
400 OLD FORD ROAD, LONDON, E.
Telephone EAST 1787.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 6s. 6d.

OUR ADVERTISEMENT RATES

Per inch	Per column	Per half-column	Per page
5 s. d.	2 s. 6 d.	1 s. 6 d.	10 s. 0 d.
2 s. 6 d.	1 s. 3 d.	6 s. 0 d.	5 s. 0 d.

Miscellaneous advertisements 1d. a word, minimum 1s. for twelve words.
5 per cent. reduction on a series of ten or more insertions; 25 per cent. reduction on working class organisations.

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St. Bride's Church, E.C.; Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL & Co., Temple
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All business communications should be sent to the MANAGER,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

Vol. III. No. 33 Sat., November 11th, 1916

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the
World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to
Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase
our Power of Service?

THE SPEAKER'S BOMBSHELLS

On the order paper for the committee on the
Special Register Bill on November 1st, ten notices
of motion appeared. And here, in order that all
our readers may study them we set them forth:—

Sir Edwin Cornwall: "That it be an Instruction to the Committee that
they have power to provide that all elections shall be held on one day."

Mr. Gilbert: "That it be an Instruction to the Committee to provide that
the Special Register Bill shall be based on a three months' qualification in
place of all existing franchises."

Mr. Wiles: "That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have
power to provide for the Special Register Bill being revised at intervals of
six months, and continued in operation until replaced by a larger measure
of electoral reform."

Mr. Percy Alfred Harris, Mr. Glyn-Jones, and Mr. George Thorne: "That
it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to base the
Special Register Bill on one simple residential qualification in place of all
existing franchises."

Mr. Chamberlain: "That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they
have power to base the Special Register Bill on one simple franchise of a
three months' qualification, and that the Special Register established shall
be used for all elections, Parliamentary and Municipal."

Sir William Pearce and Mr. Glanville: "That it be an Instruction to the
Committee that they have power to amend the Law regarding hours of
polling by making the present Parliamentary polling hours apply to all
municipal elections."

Sir George Radford: "That it be an Instruction to the Committee that
they have power to enfranchise as Parliamentary and Local Government
electors all male British subjects of the age of 21 years and upwards and
not subject to any legal incapacity; and to abolish all qualifications at
present existing for which residence or inhabitancy is required."

Mr. Bowerman: "That it be an Instruction to the Committee to provide
that the special register shall be based on a three months' qualification in
place of all existing franchises."

Mr. Ronald McNeill and Colonel Yate: "That it be an Instruction to the
Committee that they have power to insert provisions prohibiting any person
who has obtained exemption from combatant service under the Military
Service Act on the ground of conscientious objection to military service
being included in the new register."

Colonel Croft, General Hickman, Colonel Hope, Mr. Bennett-Goldney,
Mr. Rawlinson and Commander Bellairs: "That it be an Instruction to the
Committee that they have power to insert provisions for the insertion in
the register of soldiers and sailors who are serving or who have served
since the commencement of the War in His Majesty's forces apart from
any other qualification."

We have given them all with all their dupli-
cations. Search them as you will, you will find
that though suffragists like Ibsen's trustful
Norah "have been waiting for the miracle to
happen," not one of these Instructions refers to
votes for women.

Why was there no Instruction embodying the
terms of the following resolution adopted last
session by a large committee of Members of Par-
liament and tabled by Sir John Simon for dis-
cussion immediately after the recess?

"That in the opinion of the House the Parliament
to deal with industrial and social reconstruction after the
War should be elected on a wide and simple franchise
exercised by both men and women; and that, therefore,
legislation establishing such franchise is urgently required
and should be passed during the War."

This resolution was not definite enough for us,
for in our view it is essential to state without any
possibility of mistake that the proposed measure
must apply to every adult man and woman. But
what has become of the resolution: when will
it be moved? Why was it not put down on the
order paper with these various motions that we
have given above?

Mr. Chancellor professes to be a strong sup-
porter of woman's suffrage: would he have us
believe that he is so simple as to imagine that
votes for women can be slipped under cover of the
words "one simple franchise of a three months'
qualification"? We cannot believe that he has
altogether forgotten Chorlton v. Lings, Regina
v. Harrald and the case which the Scottish wo-
men graduates took right up to the House of
Lords; in all these it was clearly decided that
women can only secure either enfranchisement
or any other constitutional right or privilege by
the clear and unmistakable provision of an Act
of Parliament and that even the word "person"
cannot include women, where rights and privi-
leges are concerned, unless the act expressly
lays down that it is intended to include them.

But the fact that no instruction to include
women in the Bill was moved, though significant
in revealing what to expect from Members of
Parliament and serving as a reminder of the need
for vigilance, was rendered unimportant by the
Speaker's extraordinary reversal of the ruling he
gave last session. It will be remembered that on
August 16th Sir Edward Carson asked whether
on the Committee stage of the Registration Bill:

"it would be possible so to amend the Bill that machinery
might be set up to enable soldiers and sailors and other
persons who are absent on War work to record their
votes?"

Sir John Simon asked whether it would be
possible to propose in Committee the extension
of the franchise to women. The Speaker replied:
"The matter is not free from difficulty and doubt."
I do not think that an amendment to enfranchise soldiers
and sailors, and women and other classes of the com-
munity, which are not specially contained in this Bill,
would be admissible in Committee. . . . On the other
hand, a certain number of people who have no qualification,
are, under this Bill, to be admitted to the franchise, and
if the House thinks fit to enable others to be registered,
I think the House might do it by means of an Instruction.
The proper course, therefore, if hon. members wish to
have soldiers and sailors as such, or women, qualified,
and introduced on to the register, would be to move an
Instruction to that effect, and then the House will have
a clear opportunity of deciding whether or not those classes
are to be admitted. Having taken that decision, the ad-
mission could afterwards be made, and the necessary pro-
visions could be inserted in the Bill to enable those par-
ticular classes to appear on the register."

At the time, we commented on the remarkable
character of this ruling, in view of the fact that
this same Speaker Lowther apparently caused the
withdrawal of the Government Reform Bill
of 1913 by an exactly opposite decision. We
use the word "apparently" with intent because
we believe that both in 1913 and last week the
Speaker acted under instructions from the Gov-
ernment of the day. It may be that it was once
the custom for the Speaker to make his decisions
independently; that is not the case to-day. In
1913, as everyone knows, Mr. Asquith had prom-
ised that an opportunity should be given to
move a women's suffrage amendment to the Re-
form Bill and that if the amendment were carried
it should be incorporated in the Government Bill.
When the time for moving the amendment came
the Speaker ruled it to be out of order to incor-
porate an amendment to include women in a
Bill originally drafted for men only. The
Speaker made no suggestion of an Instruction
then because the Government did not desire that
such a way out of the difficulty should be found;
but there were many conferences and many ap-
peals to Mr. Asquith to redeem his pledge and
it is inconceivable that after all the discussion
that arose on this very point the Speaker could
have failed to make up his mind as to what
the Rules of the House will enable it to do in
regard to this by 16th August, 1916! We must
add that no one could have challenged Mr.
Speaker's ruling if he had stuck to his decision
of August 16th.

The ruling that was supposed to be so sur-
prising to the Government in 1913 was without
precedent. Women's suffrage amendments,
though defeated by a majority of votes, were
moved to the Reform Bills of 1867 and 1884, and
the fact of their being in order was not questioned
by the Speaker.

In deciding that the Special Register Bill can-
not enfranchise new classes of voters he also
ruled that it cannot disenfranchise those who
are already qualified. But (presumably because
the Government is not opposed to the indirect
disfranchisement of conscientious objectors) he
expressed willingness to admit an amendment to
exclude from the relief from loss of qualification
provided by the Act those who have been ob-
liged to leave their homes by reason of the war.
Practically all the conscientious objectors of mili-
tary age are either in prison, in alternative ser-
vice away from their homes, in ambulance units
or non-combatant corps. They will thus lose
their votes, but the Government will not have
assented to their disenfranchisement (after the
war such action might be thought extreme):
ostensibly it will only have agreed that the special
provision made for soldiers and sailors and war
workers shall not be extended to those who refuse
to fight. This is the sort of hypocrisy that is too
common.

We are not deceived by the statement that the
debate on August 16th and a closer study of
the Special Register Bill had brought the Speaker
to realise that to give votes to soldiers and sailors
who do not fulfil any existing qualifications is an
alteration of the franchise law. Of course it is
and of course he knew it on August 16th, just
as he knows it now. If Members of Parliament
had been prepared to protest on behalf of Votes
for Women in 1913 as Sir Edward Carson was
prepared to protest on behalf of Votes for Sol-
diers and Sailors last Wednesday the Speaker's
ruling would have been circumvented.

We are glad, however, that the Special Regis-
ter Bill has been swept away. This is perhaps
the only point on which the latest developments
of the franchise situation afford any real ground
for satisfaction. It is evident that but for the
energy of those who desire a service franchise the
Register Bill would have gone through with
scarcely a protest. A careful scrutiny of the ver-
batim report in Hansard reveals the fact that
the demand for adult suffrage was not made in
the debate and that the claim of women to en-
franchisement was not mentioned by its advocates,
except in so far as they may have been taken to
include women when they referred to munition

workers.

The supporters of manhood and womanhood
suffrage seemed reluctant to state their case.
Sir John Simon, to whom has been entrusted
a certain amount of Parliamentary leadership on
this question, tried to put himself in line with
Sir Edward Carson, and argued for votes for
war service as though the right of mere humanity
were non-existent or at most a negligible thing.

Mr. Asquith too, appeared to be preparing to
accept entirely the Northcliffe-Carson position
on the franchise just as he has done on con-
scription.

On August 14th he made the following declara-
tion:—

"The moment you begin a general enfranchisement
on these lines of State service you are brought face to face
with another most formidable proposition. What are you
going to do with the women? I have received a great
many representations from those who are authorised to
speak for them, and I am bound to say that they presented
to me not only a reasonable, but I think from their point
of view an unanswerable case. They say they are per-
fectly content if we do not change the qualification of the
franchise to abide by the existing state of things, but that
if we are going to bring in a new class of electors, on
whatever ground of State service, they point out—and we
cannot possibly deny their claim—that during this War
the women of this country have rendered as effective ser-
vice in the prosecution of the War as any other class of
the community."

"They are doing the work which the men who are fight-
ing had to perform before, they have taken their places,
they are the servants of the State, and they have aided,
in the most effective way, in the prosecution of
the War. What is more, and this is a point
which makes a special appeal to me, they say when the
War comes to an end, and when these abnormal and,
of course, to a large extent transient, conditions have
to be revised when the process of industrial reconstruction
has to be set on foot, have not the women a special
claim to be heard on the many questions which will arise
directly affecting their interests, and possibly meaning for
them large displacements of labour? I cannot think that
the House will deny that, and I say quite frankly that
I cannot deny that claim."

Last Wednesday he still insisted that the mun-
ition worker's claim to vote is as important as
that of the soldier and sailor, but his interest in
the enfranchisement of the munition worker ap-
peared to be limited to the munition worker who
was already qualified to vote before the war. He
promised that the House should be left free to
decide whether all soldiers and sailors should vote
as soldiers and sailors apart from other quali-
fications, and in discussing the machinery by which
a decision of the House might be taken on this
point he did not mention the munition worker.

Sir John Simon tried to draw Mr. Asquith back
to his previous statement that no distinction be-
tween soldiers and sailors and munition workers
could be made, but his reply was indefinite and
such a sentence as the following seems to show
that he is abandoning his earlier position.

"Of course, there may be differences in regard to the
universal qualification of soldiers and sailors, but with
regard to the question whether or not soldiers, sailors and
munition workers who would be qualified to vote if they
were not doing what they are doing should be allowed to
vote, there is no difference whatever."

When the Votes for Women Amendment was
thrown out by the Speaker in 1913, although Mr.
Asquith was deeply pledged to provide an oppor-
tunity for it to be voted on, he pretended that
because he was not then personally in favour of
votes for women he could provide no solution of
the deadlock. He has stated that he is opposed
to a special Military and Naval Service Franchise,
that if new voters are to be brought in he "cannot
deny" the women's claim, but now that the
Speaker's ruling has declared a Naval and Mil-
itary Service Franchise Instruction to be out of
order, he at once promised Sir Edward Carson
that he will devise machinery to overcome the
difficulty. He offered either to let the vote be
taken on a "Motion raising the direct issue," or
so to frame the Ballot Act Amendment Bill as to
bring a Service Franchise within its scope and
title. The latter proposal sounds a rather dubious
one in the light of past experience, Mr. Rawlin-
son pertinently suggested that a Bill designed
expressly to do what was intended would be more
"convenient." Mr. Asquith handsomely replied
that he did not care how it might be done; the
Government would accept whatever course Sir
Edward Carson thought "the more desirable."
Naturally Sir Edward Carson answered that he
preferred a Bill. All this, indeed, very different
from the treatment that the women pleading for
Votes have received!

Sir John Simon drew from the Prime Minister
a promise that as he had offered to confer with
Sir Edward Carson he would also consult with
some others. The Adult Suffragists will have to
display great determination and insistence if they
are to hold their own against the jingo advocates
of the Service Franchise. We hope that they
will show they really mean to press their case well
home.

But we address ourselves rather to the men
and women outside than to Parliamentarians. We
know that effective action must originally come
from the constituencies, and with all the earnest-
ness at our command we urge those who believe
in the enfranchisement of all men and women to
awaken to the immediate importance of the situa-
tion.

(Continued on page 592.)

THE FRANCHISE SITUATION

IN THE PRESS.

The *Daily Chronicle*, in its leading article of November 3rd, made the following welcome pronouncement. The *Chronicle* has been slow to declare itself in support of a settlement of the present franchise impasse on the basis of manhood and womanhood suffrage. We hope that it will now stand firmly to this position and not veer away from it as too many other newspapers and people appear to have done:—

"Once it is decided (as the action of the House of Commons over the Registration Bill has virtually decided already) that the franchise is to be extended, it will be found extraordinarily difficult to limit the extension in any way that is either logical or calculated (as a matter of practical statesmanship) to escape fierce opposition. If you give the vote to soldiers and sailors, it seems impossible to withhold it from the munition workers . . . when you give the vote to munition workers, how are you to define them for franchise purposes, and what valid line can be drawn between them and other workers whose service has been just as valuable to the State? . . . Thus we are led on without a break to adult male suffrage; and then arises the question of the women. Is it tolerable that a vast enfranchisement of men alone, with women left out, should be carried out on the ground of war-services? The omission of women from such a Bill would increase enormously the strength of the present barrier to their enfranchisement. Why should the War services of men be made the pretext for inflicting (for that is what it would unquestionably amount to) a new disability on women? Have not the women also rendered War-services? We all know that they have; we know that, but for the magnificent way in which they have stepped in to the rescue in sphere after sphere, our present War-effort would have been quite impracticable. And so we are driven step by step to the conclusion that if any extension of the franchise is to be made now on the ground of War service, nothing but a full extension to the adult suffrage, which is already the rule in Australia, New Zealand, and a large part of the United States, will carry out the idea with any fairness or finality, or without implanting in an excluded section or sections a rankling sense of profound injustice."

"We believe that public opinion outside the House of Commons is much readier for a bold step than the politicians think. The House of Commons itself is probably readier than those of its leaders who form the Ministry. Let the leaders make up their minds in this instance to sink their differences, and unite on what is really much the plainest course. It would be unreasonable to ask them to propose such a 'revolution' in War-time; if evolution had not long been trending towards it irrespective of the War; but that it has been, no one with eyes can really deny. It would be unreasonable, again, to ask for the change, if its effect were obviously to improve the position of one or other party at the polls; but in fact it is quite impossible to foresee which party would gain most by it. Our own impression is that in the immediate future, at all events, it would make very little difference to party strengths. If the Government can now make up their minds on the point, they will set the nation a really fruitful example both of unity and of courage."

"Whether the Speaker's Conference on franchise and registration will provide any exit from the impasse is doubtful. According to current accounts, however, that body is making great and even astonishing progress. I am told that it has agreed, with virtual unanimity, on manhood suffrage, the abolition of plural voting, a short residential qualification, and a basis of redistribution, and that its report may be expected within a month."—*The Scotsman*.

"THE OBSERVER."

"We particularly insist on the necessity of including women in the scheme. They have won the right by their devotion and assistance during the years of trouble; their aid will be indispensable in the settlement of the great social and industrial questions which confront the nation in the future. We may hold what view we please as to the comparative merits of autocracy, aristocracy or democracy, but if we have, once for all, adopted the last-named as our system of government, let us have the real thing and not skim milk masquerading as cream. It will, no doubt, be argued that this is not the moment to dig down to the roots of the Constitution. We disagree."

THE WORKERS' FOOD PRICES COMMITTEE.

The arrangements are now well in hand for the Great Demonstration of Protest Against High Food Prices, to be held under the auspices of the above Committee in Trafalgar Square, on Sunday afternoon, November 19th.

Local contingents with bands and banners will march to the Square from the following points:—

West ("Prince of Wales," Harrow Road), 1.45.
Marshal: Mr. G. C. Stevens, 35 Purvis Road, Kensal Rise.

East (Mile End Waste), 1.45.
Marshal: Mr. W. Ward, 48 Dunmow Road South, Stratford, E.

North and N.W. (St. Pancras Arches), 1.45.
Marshal: Mr. J. Hicks, 15 Moreland Street, Finsbury Park, N.

South and S.E. ("Dun Cow," Old Kent Road), 1.30.
Marshal: Mr. A. Howling, 182 Rolls Road, Bermondsey, S.E.

A contingent will leave Beckton Road, Canning Town, at 1 o'clock, picking up a further contingent at the Dock Gates, Poplar, and joining the Eastern section at Gardiner's Corner, Commercial Road, at 2.15.

Handbills announcing the Demonstration, with the names of the speakers, are now ready and supplies for distribution will be gladly sent on application to the Secretary, Albert Inkpin, 212 Maiden Lane, Strand, London, W.C.

All Metropolitan Trades Councils and Labour Parties, and London Branches of Trade Unions and Socialist organisations are cordially invited to participate with their banners in the various local contingents that will march to the Square.

It is hoped that the Trafalgar Square Demonstration will inaugurate a united Labour and Socialist Campaign to force the Government to take over the control and distribution of the food supplies in the interests of the people.

Funds are urgently needed to ensure the success of the Demonstration, and to prosecute the campaign with vigour, and contributions for this purpose from bodies and branches will be welcomed by the Secretary.

"We forget the precise occasion on which Mr. Asquith uttered the exclamation, 'Stop this foolery,' but it might very aptly be applied to the muddle-headed treatment of the franchise problem."—*The Birmingham Daily Mail*.

"The extension of the principle to War workers, though there is much to be said for it, raises some difficult questions, and one of the most difficult is the enfranchisement of women. Thousands of them are doing essential War work, and if men who are similarly engaged are to get the vote on that ground, women cannot be deprived of it. Mr. Asquith, who has been the stoutest opponent of women's suffrage, recently indicated that he has modified his opinion, and probably he is prepared to go so far. If women are ultimately to get the vote on the same condition as men, the best way would be to begin with the War workers; but not to go further until the time comes to deal fully and perhaps finally, with the questions of franchise and redistribution. There may be some difficulty in saying what women are War workers, but a tentative definition would be such women as were not engaged at their present work before the War and who undertook it because the Government told them that it would help the Allies to win. Thus the vote would be given to them, as to soldiers and sailors, as a recognition of national service, and consequently a Bill for the purpose could be supported by men like the Prime Minister who have always opposed women's suffrage. In this way dissension in the Cabinet may be avoided."—*The Belfast News*.

"THE DAILY SKETCH."

"The complicated tangle which arose last night in the House on the Register Bill was summarised to me neatly by an observant and experienced M.P. Those who want votes for soldiers and sailors, he said, don't want votes for women war-workers. Those who want votes for women war-workers, and through them for women as a whole, are prepared to support votes for soldiers and sailors, as one service qualification, according to them, depends on the other."

IN THE COMMONS.

Mr. Dickinson asked the President of the Local Government Board "whether he has considered the effect of Section 3 of the Parliament and Local Elections Act, 1916, which enacts that if a register of electors is prepared in September and October, 1916, and a dissolution of Parliament should take place before any Act for the preparation of a new Parliamentary Register has been passed the Parliament so elected shall exist for a period not exceeding two years; and whether this limitation will or will not continue to be operative when new registers are prepared under the Special Register Bill now before Parliament?"

Mr. Long replied: "As I am advised, Section 3 of the Parliament and Local Elections Act is, the limitation on the duration of Parliament; elected on a register prepared under the Special Register Bill."

This shows that the Government is determined to get the after-War franchise settled now. Most momentous questions will arise after the War. Five years of a Parliament not representative of the whole people may make many serious mistakes.

HUMAN SUFFRAGE

Get the Human Suffrage resolution signed by every organisation with which you are concerned!

This meeting calls on the Government to introduce not a Registration Bill but a Franchise Bill to give a vote to every woman and man over 21.

Copies of the Workers' Suffrage petition can be obtained from 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E. Get it signed by your workmates.

The following Trade Unions, Labour, and Suffrage organisations are amongst those which recently passed the above resolution:—

Scottish Brassmoulders' Union; Scottish Associated Paviors' Federal Union; Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union; Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners; United Garment Workers' Trade Union, Leeds; National Union of Gasworkers and General Labourers; Society of Amalgamated Toolmakers, Shepherds Bush; Gasworkers' Union, Bradford Branch; All-hallows Miners' Association; General Union of Journey-men Furriers of Great Britain; Society of Amalgamated Toolmakers, Leicester No. 2 Branch; National Union of Printers and Paperworkers; Miners' Lodge Aspatia, No. 4; National Union of Railwaymen, Leicester Branch; Society of Amalgamated Toolmakers, Harlesden; Society of Amalgamated Toolmakers, Glasgow; Postmen's Federa-

tion, Glasgow; Hull Transport Workers' Federation; N.U.R.; Railway Clerks' Association, Leeds; Dockers' Union, Executive Council; North of Scotland Horse and Motormen's Association; National Assurance Agents' Southampton; Prudential Assurance Agents, Southampton; A.N.O. Bakers, Southampton; Operative Bricklayers, Southampton; Amalgamated Society of Joiners and Carpenters, 6 Branches, Southampton; Electrical Trades Union, Southampton; A.S.E., 4 Branches, Southampton; N.A. Furnishing Trades Association, Southampton; Litho Artists' and Engravers' Union, Southampton; N.A.S. Painters and Decorators, Southampton, 4 Branches; United Pattern Makers, Southampton; N.O. Plumbers' Association, Southampton; N.U.R., Southampton; A.S. Railwaymen and Vehicle Workers, Southampton; British Seafarers' Union, Southampton; Shipwrights' Union (3 Branches), Southampton; N.U. Shop Assistants, Southampton; Typographical Association, Southampton; A.S. Wood-cutting Machinists, Southampton; N.U.K., Poplar No. 1 Branch; United Garment Workers' Union, Leeds A.U. C.O. Branch; Glasgow Trades Council; Govan Trades Council; Hawick District Trades Council; Aberdeen United Trades Council; Dumfries, Maxwelltown and District Trades and Labour Council; Hove Trades Council; Southampton Trades Council; Peterhead United Trades Council; Clydebank and District Trades Council; Renfrew Trades and Labour Council; Dumbarton Trades and Labour Council; Edinburgh and District Trades and Labour Council; Finchley and District Trades and Labour Council; Methill and District Trades and Labour Council; Greenock and District Trades and Labour Council; Fulham Labour Council; Kensington and Paddington Labour Council; Woodford and District Trades and Labour Council; Perth Trades and Labour Council; Wimbledon and District Trades and Labour Council; Sligo United Trades and Labour Council; Borough of Camberwell Trades and Labour Council; East Leeds Labour Party; West Monmouth Labour Party Executive; Hackney Trades Council and L.R.C.; Barking Trades and Labour Council; Chester le Street Trades and Labour Council; L.L.P.—Bridgton; Wishaw; Maryhill; Dalry; Kingston (Glasgow); Kutherglen; Dumfermline; Govan (Central); Law; Cullis; Kilmarnock; Erith; Brechin; Edinburgh; Bridgeton Branch (Glasgow); Bathgate; N. Kensington; Federation for Scotland; Paisley; Kinning Park (Glasgow); West Ham; Motherwell; Bermondsey; Richmond; Accrington; Limehouse; Workington; Spennymoor; Hampstead; Woolwich; Worthing; Cardiff; Huddersfield Central; Stanley; Armley; West Islington; Carlton; Derby; Cum Avon; Hackney; Selly Oak; Hove; Cambuslang; B.S.P. Central Scottish Council; Glasgow "Herald" League; Glasgow Housing Association; United Suffragists, Glasgow Branch; Barking Women's Labour League; Bishop Auckland Women's Labour League; Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage; Manchester Men's League for Women's Suffrage; Workers' Suffrage Federation; Electoral Trades Union, Broughton, Manchester.

LOBBY NOTES.

The Parliamentary situation is exceedingly critical just now, and we are glad to be able to announce that Mrs. Drake has undertaken the work of Parliamentary Organiser for the W.S.F. She is arranging to be in the Lobby of the House of Commons every Tuesday afternoon, where friends desiring to interview their local Members of Parliament on the question of Adult Suffrage may meet her.

In reply to a "Rebel to the Last," the Editor wishes to point out that Mr. Wilfrid Wilson Gibson, who judged the Essay Competition, is not the Editor of the DREADNOUGHT. The Editor is not responsible for the criticisms of Mr. Gibson, and Mr. Gibson is not responsible for the Editor's having extended the time allowed for the Essay Competition. This was done by the Editor.

AN ADVANCE.

A recent Army Order announces that: An allowance may now be granted to a child of a discharged soldier born within six months of the date of his discharge, or the grant may be continued to a child over sixteen and under twenty-one, who is incapable of earning a living through physical or mental infirmity, which has existed since the age of 16. We welcome these improvements, but why not grant the concession to the child born nine months after date of discharge?

FROM FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS

The "Vorwaerts," German Socialist, October 22nd: "The preliminary Budget presented to the Duma for 1917 amounts to 4,078 milliard roubles; it has been drawn upon the supposition that the War will last to the end of the year."

"Le Metallurgiste Belge" says: The great theoretical German Socialist R. Kautsky said in his speech at the anniversary of the assassination of J. Jaurès, the great leader of French socialists: "He will continue the work of Jaurès which will lead us to the final triumph of the proletariat." Kautsky belongs to the German Socialist Minority and is a friend of Karl Liebknecht.

"Le Socialiste Belge."—In January, 1917, a conference of the Socialists of the Entente will take place in Paris. Fourteen national sections will take part: Great Britain, France, Italy, Portugal, Russia, Finland, Poland (three parts), Belgium, Serbia, Roumania, Canada, Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand. According to a communication of the French Socialist Party, which is organising the conference, the discussion will deal exclusively with two points: (1) That the policy in the Allies' countries during and after the War shall exclude all tendency towards conquest and annexation, and when Peace is restored shall guarantee respect for the violated rights of nations by international institutions giving material assurance of maintaining the durability of this Peace; (2) To induce the Governments to remove from their economic agreements during and after the War everything that might lead to increased exploitation of the international proletariat and all that could constitute the germs of future conflicts between the nations. Socialists, Trade Unions and Syndicates will be invited to the conference.

"Vorwaerts."—According to statistics prepared by the Austro-Hungarian military administration in Serbia in 1916, the population of the territory occupied there amounts to 1,373,311, of which 575,643 are men and 797,668 are women.

At Holzminde, in Germany, there are from 4,000 to 6,000 civil prisoners of all nationalities, of whom about 400 are women and children. There are also a few soldiers. The camp was established early in the War,

and was originally intended for French and Belgian civil prisoners. There are now only two women of British nationality in the camp. One of these has lived in Germany for 32 years.

The Italian General Confederation of Labour is asking among other things, that wives of conscripts who go to work should not thereby lose their right to separation allowance.

THE CENTRAL POWERS AND THE POLISH QUESTION.

The "Berliner Tagblatt" reports the following details as authentic:—A few weeks ago, during negotiations between Berlin and Vienna, the former suggested that Austria should cede Galicia so that it might be united to the Kingdom of Poland. Vienna made the counter proposal that Prussia should give up Posen, otherwise Austria would retain Galicia. Because of this difference of opinion it was decided that: A Provisional Government be set up in Poland, dependent on Germany, and that Austria should extend the autonomy of Galicia independently.

"WOMAN POWER BOARD"

A "Woman-Power Board" (odious name) is now demanded, and industrial conscription for women is talked of. Yet masses of women wait day by day at the gates of the National Projectile Factory, Hackney Marshes, and are not even allowed inside to be interviewed unless they bring a note of introduction from someone or other. After waiting at the gates for days in this present rainy weather some of the girls and women occasionally think of asking someone or other to give them a note to the manager. Then, and not till then, they are allowed to pass the gates. New-comers with letters of introduction are received at once.

The City of London Corporation has made a grant of £30 to the "Mothers' Arms."

Some months ago Mrs. Leigh Rothwell and the members of the Southampton W.S.F. conducted an energetic trade union campaign amongst the women and girl workers of the district. The campaign is now bearing fruit, for the workers are joining the National Federation of Women Workers in large numbers.

THE SPEAKER'S BOMBHELLS (continued from page 590).

Some suffragists have declared that they will not raise any very insistent demand for enfranchisement during the War unless the Government itself decides to make alterations in the franchise. They have been persuaded to ignore the Special Register Bill on the ground that it is not a franchise measure. Mr. Asquith himself has hitherto put forward that view. But last Wednesday he evidently forgot his assurances to Mrs. Fawcett, and his declaration of August 14th that if further classes of men were to be enfranchised he could not deny the women's claim, for he said:

"I express my opinion for what it is worth that this Bill does in fact effect a very large enfranchisement."

The decision of Mr. Whiteley, the Chairman of Committee to admit a proposal to reduce the qualifying period to three months would have added to the enfranchising capacity of the Special Register Bill. The sleeping suffragists should therefore arouse themselves! But we understand that the Bill that has been introduced in the House of Lords goes further than the Special Register Bill, and contains clauses which are quite definitely enfranchising clauses.

Has Mr. Asquith entirely gone back on his declaration of August? Did he mean nothing by it; was it merely the frothy talk of a callous politician? Or is he receding from it now in order to placate the House of Lords?

Time will show, perhaps, but those who care vividly and earnestly for freedom must not wait idly by whilst events take their course; by vigorous action they must mould future happenings to their will.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

It is being suggested in some quarters that the old anomalous franchises should remain, that a Naval and Military Service Franchise should be added, and that women munition workers be allowed to vote. Such an attempt at solving the franchise problem would meet with our very determined opposition; we insist that the only acceptable basis for the franchise is that of human right, and renew our demand for a vote for every adult man and woman.

JUDGE NEIL

Judge Henry Neil, of Chicago, U.S.A., was the guest of the W.S.F. at an At Home held in the Food Reform Restaurant, Farnham Street, Holborn on Thursday.

Judge Neil pleaded the cause of Mothers' Pensions with very deep feeling. He stated that the philosophy of the free schools was precisely that of the Mothers' Pensions. In 1892, a group of Philadelphia citizens organised a meeting to advocate free schools. They were beaten by the mob, set upon by the police and thrown into prison. It was said that to tax one man's property to educate another man's children was anarchic. Not until 1865, after the American Civil War, did America decide to tax all property to educate all children. Judge Neil explained that in the United States not merely are the schools free which correspond to British elementary schools, but also the high schools corresponding to our secondary schools, the pupils at the high schools ranging from 14 to 19 years of age. When he was a boy he said that there was a scarcity of high schools, but there are now enough for every child to go to a high school within a short distance of his or her home. The universities make only very low charges. Judge Neil's own son is attending a university for the small fee of 24 dollars (less than £5) a year. In the City of Mexico all education, including that necessary to become a doctor or a lawyer is entirely free. The annual taxation for education in the United States is 750,000,000 dollars (£150,000,000). The free schools are used by almost all; they are indeed so respectable that if a child goes to a private school there is a tendency for it to be thought that this is because he is not mentally capable of receiving the ordinary instruction. The rich are interested in the free schools, the public schools, as they are called in America, because their own children go to them.

In setting out to secure the adoption of Mothers' Pensions Judge Neil advised: "If you talk about right and wrong and sympathy you will get nothing. When I argue before the legislatures I argue on dollars. Get a committee appointed to inquire what it costs to maintain a child in an institution and what it costs the mothers to maintain a child in the home and you will find that the mother can do it for one-third the amount needed by the institution. Then you are talking dollars not sympathy."

Before the institution of mothers' pensions in America the judge of the Juvenile Court was authorised to take children from immoral parents. At first sexual immorality alone was considered, but later the children were removed on account of what might be called financial immorality, that is poverty. Every legislature was importuned to build more children's institutions.

In 1911 Judge Neil went to the Juvenile Court of Chicago and sat beside the judge, who was a friend of his. A woman with five little children was brought in she was given a chair because she was too ill to stand. Her husband had died three years before and since then she had cared for her children during the day and spent the nights scrubbing the marble floors of public buildings. Her health, as might be expected, had broken down, her landlord had ordered her out. She had come to the court for help. The judge and the court officers then began to figure out what they should do with the children: little Tommy must go to this institution because it took boys of his age, little Mary to that, and so on, until the future of every child was disposed of. Their mother would never see them again, because it was a criminal offence to tell a mother whose children had been taken from her where they had been sent.

Judge Neil interposed: "Is this the help you are going to give to this mother? Wouldn't it be better if you took her out back of the court and shot her, now that you are going to take all her children away from her for ever?"

He learnt that each children's institution was empowered to draw 15 dollars a month from the State for every child in the institution and as much more was

usually raised in subscriptions. This woman's five children would cost the State 75 dollars a month in taxes. He went to the State Legislature and urged that in such cases wherever possible the money should be paid to the mother instead of to the institution. "You must hire someone to take care of these children" he said. "If you hire the mother she will do it cheaper and better than anyone else." "The taxpayer might have no sympathy for the mother, but he had sympathy for his own pocket!" Next spring the legislature agreed to amend the law so as to provide that if the mother were fit the children's maintenance should be paid to her instead of to the charity. Two-thirds of the people of the United States now live in districts where the mothers' pensions exist.

When such reforms are asked for, people object that parental responsibility will be undermined, but the free school system and the mothers' pension system show that "the more you help the mother the more she helps."

American public opinion now realises this so fully that the courts dare not remove the children from their mothers instead of granting pensions without very serious and substantial cause.

In the arctic regions where the penguins live it is so cold that if the mother birds were to leave the nests to go catching fish the little birds would die of cold. Therefore the mother birds stay on the nest and all the other adult penguins go out to catch fish for all the little penguins. If we are going to survive we must abolish child poverty. The children who are properly housed, clothed and cared for make the best citizens.

Miss Halford, of the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, asked Judge Neil whether he met with any opposition to his pension scheme. He replied that when he went to the legislature of Illinois in 1911 he was not known as a charity worker, or as the Americans say, an "uplifter": he put the question before the legislators as a business proposition and got it passed without difficulty. The charity workers had said they were in favour of mothers' pensions, but had never been to the legislature to ask for them and they knew nothing of Judge Neil's action until the law was passed. The rank and file charity workers were glad of the result, but the heads of big organisations then complained that it was wrong to give material relief to the poor.

The administrators of the pensions were able to show that the children of necessitous mothers who were frequently brought into the juvenile courts charged with various offences ceased to come after pensions were granted to them, and that there was a great decrease in juvenile crime. But the opponents did not relent, and as Judge Neil went from legislature to legislature he always found the charity organisers opposed to him. The biggest fight had been in New York.

In reply to a question by Mrs. Lansbury, Judge Neil said that in Illinois the pensions are administered by the Juvenile Court and mothers apply to the Court for them, but later experience has shown that it is better to have the pensions administered by the State Board of Health. The amount of the pension is not fixed by law, the law states that it must be sufficient. It is usually about 10 dollars per child per month.

Miss Pankhurst's question as to what is to happen to a middle-aged mother after her children have grown up, Judge Neil replied that the scheme is as yet in its infancy and has not yet reached that stage. The cheque with which the mothers' pensions are paid is the ordinary bank cheque.

In reply to questions by Miss Dorothy Pethick and others, Judge Neil said that pensions could be paid in respect of children whose fathers are living but who do not or cannot maintain them satisfactorily. If the father is a wealthy man he can be made to pay up to 500 dollars towards the child's upkeep, but if the father who fails to maintain his children is poor he cannot pay and as there is nothing to be gained by punishment, the pensions law do not provide for it.

"The man who deserts his family deserts from a proposition which he has found hopeless."

"If you bring back a man by force who has deserted a woman, you force her to live with him; it is too high a price to pay to force her to go on having children by an undesirable man. It is better that she should get a pension."

"If a woman is freed from economic necessity her instinct is to keep herself pure."

The inspectors who visit the homes to see that the children are properly cared for are women. Judge Neil would insist that they shall be mothers.

The judge added that mothers who have been degenerated by poverty do not start by managing so well with their pensions as those who have lived comfortably. It takes some time to get back to normal after the terrible experience of poverty. It is worse to be hopeless than to be in prison. A certain rich man took some poor children and gave them ample food. During the first week they lost weight because their stomachs were surprised by abundance, but after two weeks they began to gain weight. The mother who gets a pension may begin by celebrating her victory by visits to the picture palace, but soon settles down to the business of making ends meet.

MR. CECIL CHAPMAN'S VIEW

Mr. Cecil Chapman, of the Children's Court, made the following statement to Judge Neil:—

I have read with great interest an account of your scheme for mothers' pensions to take the place of money spent upon Industrial Schools and Reformatories. The late Mr. Plowden used to say that the worst mother was better than the best institution for bringing up a family. It is not necessary to exaggerate the case by use of paradox, because the course suggested has obvious advantages. It preserves the "family feeling" which is the parent of "community sense," and it ensures the training of children in all the ups and downs of life under normal or natural conditions. If successful it not only brings up the children well, but it raises the standard of motherhood and its responsibilities which, under modern conditions of civilisation, has fallen far below what it ought to be.

In England and all other countries affected by the War there has been a very serious increase in juvenile criminality, chiefly in thefts, which, roughly speaking, have increased 50 per cent., and the Home Office is much concerned to find a remedy for it. We have not begun to solve the problem by pointing out the obvious causes of the increased delinquency, such as the absence of the father and the loss of discipline at home, the darkness of the streets, and the demoralising character of the cinemas. If the children were well brought up, or if the atmosphere in which they lived was such that it made thieving appear disgraceful, children would not run to thieving as ducks do to water when they are given their liberty. It is not understood as it ought to be that thieving has also increased enormously amongst adults where war conditions prevail, and what we really want is a better public opinion

on the subject of dishonesty. You can protect Society by increasing your police forces, but you cannot conquer the tendency to steal or to get drunk or to maintain the evils of prostitution until you have made an atmosphere in which it is impossible for such things to flourish.

Such an atmosphere must be started in the homes of our people, and you cannot start it unless you have the co-operation of mothers. We are doing a good deal in England upon the same lines by leaving delinquent children with their parents under the superintendence of a probation officer, and we have every reason to congratulate ourselves upon the results. In the Little Commonwealth at Batcombe, in Dorsetshire, we are bringing up delinquent children in a self-governing community of boys and girls, and I cannot speak too highly of the good which has been achieved there, but of course we have touched only a small proportion of the population. I welcome your plan as a new suggestion for meeting a most difficult and distressing situation, and I hope the authorities here may be persuaded to give it a trial.

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118 Cannon Street, E.C.

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

October 31st.—The question of Miss Emily Hobhouse's inspection of the German camps was again discussed. Mr. Butcher accused her of betraying her country and he and others clamoured for her punishment.

Mr. Outhwaite asked "whether there is any particular reason why an English lady should not go to inspect camps in Germany?" Mr. Trevelyan mentioned that immediately on her return Miss Hobhouse offered to give all the information that she had to the British Government. Lord Robert Cecil said that the general opinion of the House and the country is that her activities "have not been in the interests of this country."

As a Minister, Lord Robert does not need to rely upon "general opinion." He has facts at his command. Certainly, Miss Hobhouse's activities have been in the interests of interned prisoners, both in this country and in Germany.

In reply to Mr. Hope, Sir R. Cooper was able to announce that the arrangement for exchange and mutual repatriation of British and German civilians applies only to men over 45 and only those who desire to go. Those who do not desire to return to their native land will be kept in internment.

The various cases of Irishmen forced into the Army in spite of the clause in the Military Service Act providing for their exemption were cited by Mr. Doris.

Mr. Forster refused to interfere with the decisions of the Police Court magistrates, although he knows them to be contrary to the law.

In reply to Mr. Ginnell, Mr. Forster stated that 300 conscientious objectors had "gone to Ireland on the request of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief for employment or some military work."

THE MASSACRE OF YOUTH.

Commander Wedgwood demanded the roping into the Army of all men up to 22 regardless of occupation. There were many demands for more "man power" for cannon food. Mr. Anderson reported a gross case, the case of the enlistment of the unfit.

Mr. Lloyd George said that Captain Colthurst "was retired on June 10th, 1916."

Mr. Lloyd George announced that the War Office is responsible for establishing an organisation for the training and treatment of the discharged soldier, but that the organisation will be a civil one.

The question of the seizure of two plays by Miles Malleson published by Mr. Henderson was raised by Sir W. Byles. Mr. Forster said: "I am advised that the book in question is a deliberate calumny on the British soldier," he regretted that anyone approved of it, yet he admitted that he had not read it!

Mr. McKenna said that the Sugar Commission will now decline to countenance any action of retailers which demands the purchase of more than 2s. worth of goods in order to obtain one pound of sugar.

Why not issue tickets according to the number of the family? Many poor people cannot buy 2s. worth of groceries at once. But the main point is to bring down the price!

Earl Winterton asked that the wilful transmission of venereal disease by an infected to a healthy person should be made criminal. Mr. Bonar Law replied that he is considering the suggestion.

If this power of punishment is granted it will be used only against the weak and poor, and it will not stop venereal disease. More good could be done by aiding the unfortunate mothers of illegitimate children in order that they may not be forced to sell themselves for bread.

Mr. Lloyd George said that if there was a general desire that he should do so he would be happy to address the House at a secret session.

Mr. Healy asked that a passport to some neutral country should be granted to Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington and her child for the duration of the War, since she is given no peace by the British Government. Mr. Ginnell protested against letters containing complaints from untried prisoners at Frongoch being suppressed.

No satisfactory answers were forthcoming.

Mr. Healy said that in County Cork five lads were sentenced to seven days and two calendar months' imprisonment extra for singing the old Irish song, "The Felons for our Land." He also asked the Government to publish a list of songs which may legally be sung!

FREEDOM OF BRITISH SUBJECTS!

GREECE.

On the adjournment, Mr. R. McNeill asked whether the Governments of the Allies had definitely refused to recognise the Government of Venizelos. He said that British troops had gone to Greece on the invitation of Venizelos at the time when he was Prime Minister to use Greek territory for operations in the Balkans, and our troops have been "engaged there for many months in defensive and now in offensive operations." Mr. McNeill said that the refusal to recognise Venizelos had "appeared to irregularise our position in Greece." He heard that it had been received with jubilation by the King's party, which wished to keep Greece from joining in the War.

Lord Robert Cecil replied that we went to Greece at the invitation of the Greek Government. "Wherever we find a part of Greek Dominion which is in fact under the Government of M. Venizelos or his Provisional Government... we recognise him as the de facto ruler of that portion."

In our view Britain ought not to have occupied Greek territory, and if it is true that the Greek Government invited the occupation voluntarily and not in response to overwhelming pressure, the Greek Government undoubtedly committed an unneutral act. Cartoons in neutral newspapers have portrayed Greece as the European football. It seems to us that that is a very just summing up of her position.

We emphatically dissent from the view that Britain, or any other outside Power, is entitled to interfere in the internal affairs of Greece. We have no business to interfere on behalf of Constantine or Venizelos.

November 1st.—Mr. Tyson Wilson drew attention to the action of the Orient Line in threatening to hand over men to the military authorities unless they agreed to a reduction in wages of £1 8s. per month. Dr. Macnamara tried to whitewash this action; but admitted that the men were informed "that if they refused employment at the current rate of wages the exemption from military service in respect of this ship would not apply."

CONSCRIPTION AND AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS' VOTES.

Mr. Lynch suggested that the voting of the Australian soldiers in England on the Conscription referendum had been stopped before completion.

It is said that the votes of Australian soldiers were seven to one against conscription.

Mr. Forster replied that voting "had to be conducted with reference to the military situation."

Mr. Lynch asked whether "after certain Australian soldiers had recorded their votes those votes were torn up and a fresh vote instituted."

Mr. Forster: "I am not aware of that at all. I do not know that the War Office is concerned with it." Mr. Hazleton: "Can the hon. gentleman say whether the arrangements were conducted on behalf of the War Office or on behalf of the Australian Government officials?"

Mr. Forster: "I should like notice of that question." Mr. Outhwaite stated that General Birdwood, the Imperial officer commanding the Australian troops, issued a personal appeal to Australian soldiers in England and Belgium urging them to vote for conscription. He asked whether General Birdwood took this action by direction of the War Office or the Commonwealth authorities.

Mr. Forster: "I know nothing of such an appeal and the War Office was not consulted on the subject."

There was some argument about the selling up of property that has been seized from the Germans in Nigeria. Wedgwood and Carson were anxious that neutrals should be excluded from the opportunity to bid for the properties at the sale by auction which is to be held. Carson and others pressed for an assurance that the Government would consider the offer of a British company to take over the properties at a fair valuation. They did not say what the company is, who is in it, and what they have in it.

What a war for freedom! The Germans have not yet started putting up to auction any of the properties behind their lines in France and Belgium.

Mr. Outhwaite asked that the question of repealing the Military Service Acts should be submitted to a Referendum. Mr. Asquith refused. Mr. Outhwaite urged that conscription should not be introduced in Ireland unless sanctioned by a referendum vote.

Mr. Anderson stated that a London tribunal had offered to exempt a clerk on condition of his doing unpaid work for the tribunal.

Lord R. Cecil announced that Viscount Grey's speech is published and will be translated into various languages and circulated abroad.

Why?

Mr. Forster said it was left to the discretion of the local authorities to decide whether women clerks in the Army Pay Office should get a War bonus. The maximum bonus for women is 2s. a week; the men's bonus is 4s.

Mr. Ginnell complained that in the Annual Report on Ceylon for 1915 the full statement of the injury to persons and property of Moors by Sinhalese during the riots of that year is given but the injury to Sinhalese is suppressed.

Mr. Bonar Law said that so far as he was aware, the Sinhalese suffered "no material injury" at the hands of the Moors or the police and military, except as a result of "action taken for the suppression of disorder."

If that was anything like the action taken in Dublin, the injury must have been considerable.

Mr. McNeill again called for Miss Hobhouse to be punished.

Sir Frederick Smith said that the difficulty of obtaining evidence would make it impossible to prove a criminal offence, but added, to please those who are hounding the lady down, that she will not be permitted to leave the country as long as the War lasts.

Mr. Outhwaite asked whether the American Committee of Belgian Relief had sent him an estimate of the damage done by the German invasion and whether the expenditure by this country on a few days of war would not be sufficient to repair it. Lord Robert Cecil professed to know nothing of the matter and hypocritically said that no doubt the committee considered it outside the scope of their work and incompatible with carrying it on satisfactorily to report on such a subject.

Mr. Anderson raised the case of a small shop strike in Manchester, called to bring the wages paid by one particular employer up to the general standard. Two men involved in the dispute received a letter from their employer typewritten on his business paper stating that he had obtained a communication from the military representative that the men must report for service with the Colours at once. Is it the intention of the War Office to help employers who refuse to pay fair wages by allowing such instances of industrial conscription?

Mr. Forster promised to make inquiries.

SOLDIERS AND THE POOR LAW.

Mr. Finney said that the Walsanton and Burslem Guardians have passed resolutions urging that men who are invalided out of the Army without pensions should not become a charge upon the local poor rates, but that as these men were passed as fit for service by a medical board the responsibility for maintaining them and their dependants should be placed upon the National Exchequer.

Where considerations of right and justice fail, agitation to save the local rates may triumph!

Mr. Sutton said that employers are refusing to take back partially incapacitated men who have been to the front.

After the war, if men are plentiful and work is scarce this will be the general rule. But masses of men who are awarded only a partial disablement pension are unfit to work.

Mr. Asquith made it clear that one can only insure property against damage by air raid under the Government scheme: for insurance of life and limb one must go to the private insurance companies.

Mr. Anderson drew attention to the death of Mrs. Lydia E. Gibson from T.N.T. poisoning and to the fact that it was stated in evidence that the recommendations and precautions are not being observed at Woolwich and that the Coroner had complained that such cases occurred time and again and that it was not possible to find out who was responsible.

The only safe course is to stop the use of T.N.T. and end the war!

Major Hunt stated that 2,312,000 assurance policies, many being those of soldiers and sailors have been issued by the Prudential Assurance Company.

November 2nd.—Sir C. Kinloch-Cooke disclosed the terrible distress of wounded and sick who arrived at Wellington and other small stations from Mesopotamia. They found no mattresses or pillows on their iron beds, though the weather was cold they had few blankets between them; they had to drink out of empty cigarette tins and condensed milk tins.

Mr. Chamberlain admitted that the provision made for the soldiers had been inadequate, but characterised the statements as "uncritical condemnation" and "mere gossip and rumour."

Sir Kinloch-Cooke protested that his statements were common knowledge in India.

Reference was made by Mr. Outhwaite to the proposed employment in France of 10,000 South African natives; but no satisfactory explanation was forthcoming. An answer was refused to his question on importation of Chinese labour into France.

As an example of the idiotic extremes to which militarism may go the refusal to allow school boys in Youghal and Middleton to march to a hurling match was instanced. Captain Donelan declared that the fathers of many of the lads were fighting at the front.

Captain Bathurst demanded that more boys of 12 years should be sent out of school for farm work.

POTATO FAMINE IN IRELAND.

Questions about the potato supply practically took the form of a debate. Mr. T. W. Russell, vice-president of the Department of Agriculture, Ireland, could give no reassuring statistics. He believed that the crop would be rather less than two-thirds of the normal. He did not think it necessary to forbid export until such facts could be ascertained. He does not remember that it was potato shortage that caused the famine in 1847-49. Mr. Runciman called on the well-to-do who eat potatoes twice daily from habit to limit their consumption "so that those who are not so well off may be able to procure a sufficient supply at reasonable prices."

The Speaker intervened in the middle of the questions with, "We cannot spend all our time discussing potatoes." He forgot that to poor people who have nothing else to eat potatoes are questions of life and death!

Mr. Pretyman stated that supervisors and controllers of enemy businesses are remunerated on the basis of the time actually occupied in the work at the rate of £5 5s. a day for principals, £1 11s. 6d. for chief clerks, and 16s. a day for other clerks. Increased rates and special fees are also sometimes paid. The firms controlled are made to bear the expense.

This fact explains the generous salaries!

GOVERNMENT ARBITRATION.

The Prime Minister announced that His Majesty's Government has decided to set up a standing arbitration tribunal at once to decide, during the War, questions of wages arising between the Government and its civil employees.

We anxiously await news as to the composition of this body. Will the workers, including the women workers, be directly represented upon it? Such schemes are usually detrimental to the workers. They provide another reason why all should be enfranchised.

In view of Sir George Newman's Report stating that not less than one-sixth of the elementary school children are unfit to go to school, Mr. Anderson advocated after-the-War schemes of improved social organisation with a view to ridding the country of slums and destitution.

Mr. Asquith said these matters are being carefully considered. We do not hear so much of them as of schemes to benefit the great traders.

Dr. Macnamara explained that the separation allowances for the wives and children of sailors are less than those of soldiers; because the pay is higher and the opportunity for promotion greater than in the case of the soldier.

The pay is not in all cases greater, and one cannot live in the present on future opportunities.

Mr. Thomas Richardson said that a conscientious objector died suddenly in the guard-room at Strenall Camp, Yorkshire. Mr. Forster answered: "Inquiries are being made."

HOUNDING OUT AN OLD SCHOLAR.

On the adjournment the question was raised of the "employment at the India Office of an unnaturalised German," Professor Ethé, who is occupied on research work. In the absence of Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Charles Roberts defended the "employment" of this old scholar of 75 who has been engaged since 1872 in compiling a catalogue of these Persian manuscripts which are in the library of the India Office and are sent to his home. He has been working at these manuscripts for the past 15 years, and the India Office would be sorry to lose "the result of this scholar's patient and laborious work."

That unmannerly young man, Earl Winterton, demanded to know what the old scholar did prior to 1872. It was explained that Professor Ethé worked 30 years on the first catalogue and was not paid till it was complete, and has worked 15 years on the present catalogue without pay, but Sir Frederick Banbury, whose sympathies are always at the service of dogs or horses, declared that to employ this old man was a "perfect waste of money. We are always being told it is wrong to dress extravagantly, but here you are wasting money in preparing a book. This German is not going to be paid until after the work is completed, but I for one say that he ought not to be paid at all—he ought to be told not to come any more."

VICTIMISATION OF MESOPOTAMIAN SOLDIERS.

Mr. Pringle, on the adjournment of the House, raised the question of a soldier who died, but when enlisting was not in "a position which left dependants upon him," in consequence of this the War Office refused to grant any pension. People who apprentice their boys or send them to the University, often at great sacrifice, are thus penalised by the State. Mr. Pringle urged that such questions should be referred back to the Select Committee.

Mr. Forster hastened to place all the blame on the Select Committee and exonerate the War Office. He explained that soldiers who die in Mesopotamia are dependent on the Indian Government and cannot, therefore, get relief through the Statutory Committee. He said that he had been "quite astonished" when his attention had been drawn to this, and that steps would be taken to find a remedy.

Mr. Hogge reminded him that a long time had elapsed, that casualties had been great, and that in many cases officers and men were suffering "dire want" because nothing had been done.

THE WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

To secure Human Suffrage, namely, a Vote for every Woman and Man of full age, and to win Social and Economic Freedom for the People.

Entrance Fee ... Id.
Minimum Subscription ... Id. a month

LONDON MEETINGS.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14th.

Outside Jones' Bros., Holloway Road, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker.

Green Gate, 4 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.

Bow Women's Hall, 7.45 p.m., Lecture; Discussion.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15th.

Ford Road, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

Grundy Street, 3 p.m., Rev. Wm. Piggott, Miss Price.

Lewisham Market Place, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker.

42 Forest Lane, Stratford, 7 p.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Bouvier; Chair, Rev. Stanley Jones.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16th.

Osborn Street, 11.30 a.m., Miss Somers.

The Grove, Hammersmith (Joint Meeting with N.C. for C.L.), 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Walker.

Parliament Hill, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.

Bow Women's Hall, 4 p.m., Public Meeting.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17th.

Club Row, 1 p.m., Miss Price.

"Whitehouse," 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18th.

White Cross Street, 1 p.m., Miss Price.

Corner of Abbey Street and Jamaica Road, Bermondsey, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker.

Bow Women's Hall, 8 to 10 p.m., Reading Room.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19th.

53 St. Leonard's Street, 2 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.

Poplar Women's Hall, 8.15 p.m., Lecture; Discussion.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20th.

Poplar Women's Hall, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Shlette.

Chandos Hall, 3.30 p.m., At Home.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21st.

"The Triangle," Peckham, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker.

Green Gate, 4 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.

Bow Women's Hall, 7.45 p.m., Lecture; Discussion.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd.

Grundy Street, 11 a.m., Miss Price.

Chandos Hall, 3.30 p.m., Reading by Mr. Miles Malleon.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd.

Osborn Street, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Walker.

The Grove, Hammersmith (Joint Meeting with N.C.F.), 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

Hyde Park, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Drake.

W.S.F. BRANCHES

LONDON.

Barking.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Langford, Ailsa Crag, 79 Essex Road.

Bow.—400 Old Ford Road, E. Secretary: Miss Price. DREADNOUGHT sales week ending November 4th, 1916, 553; Miss O'Brien, 144; Mrs. Holloway, 100; Mrs. Payne, 36; Mrs. Greer, 36; Miss Vine and Miss Bailey, 32; Miss Smyth, 29; Mrs. Farrall, 12; General, 164.

Bromley.—53 St. Leonard's Street. Hon. Secs.: Mrs. Lansbury, Mrs. Wood.

Canning Town.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Parsons, 94 Ravenscroft Road.

Enfield and Edmonton.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Beavis, 171 Church Street, Lower Edmonton.

Golder's Green.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Clapson, 45 Erskine Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb, N.W.

Hackney.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Page, 123 Cassland Road, Hackney.

Leyton.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hart, 73 Calderon Road.

Poplar.—20 Railway Street, E. DREADNOUGHT Sales, 128. Mrs. Shlette 68; Miss Vine, 24; Miss Watts, 17; Miss K. Lagsding, 13; General, 6.

St. Pancras.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Redgrave, 191 Camden Road, N.W.

Tidal Basin.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Drake, 49 Crediton Road.

Willesden.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Shepherd, 141 Villiers Road.

PROVINCES.

Birmingham.—Hon. Sec.: Miss A. F. Boden, 10 Sandhurst Road, Moseley.

Bradford.—Hon. Sec.: Miss McHale, 12 Alredale College Terrace.

Brynmaur and Nantyglo.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hayward, Coedcae, Garn Fack.

Chester-le-Street.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Faulkner, 14 Hilda Terrace, South Pelaw, Durham.

Chopwell.—Hon. Sec.: V. M. Hardy, Esq., 18 Severn Street, Durham.

Cornsay and Quebec.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Thompson, 8 East Street, Hampstead Colly, Durham.

Durham.—Hon. Sec.: Miss C. Ellis, Dundalk House, Neville's Cross.

Ferryhill.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Ruby Stoddart, 12 Hackworth Street, Dean Bank.

Glasgow.—Hon. Sec.: Lachlan Smith, Esq., 126 Bothwell Street.

Leeds.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hunter, 7 Sugdenfold, Armley.

Leicester.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hill, 12 Sweetbriar Road.

Medonley.—Hon. Sec.: Tom Orr, Esq., 6 Derwent Cottages, Durham.

Nottingham.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hough, 3 Chandos Avenue, Netherfield.

Portsmouth.—Hon. Sec.: Miss L. Whitehead, 6 Northumberland Road, Southsea.

Sheffield.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Manoin, 98 Gell Street.

Southampton.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Helsby, 29 St. Deny's Road.

York: Huddersfield, Rotherham, Wakefield.—Organiser: Miss Stephen, c/o Mrs. Gee, 15 Springwood Terrace, Huddersfield.

W.S.F. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Lectures on Economics, Trade Unionism, History of Socialism, National Guilds, &c., take place at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E., on Friday evenings at 7.45.

Nov. 16th. Mrs. LaBite-Cyon, "French Revolution."

" 17th. Mrs. LaBite-Cyon, "French Revolution."

" 24th. Miss Mabel Lawrence, "International Socialism."

Dec. 1st. Mr. G. D. H. Cole, "Trade Unions. Next Step, National Guilds."

" 15th. Professor Masaryk, "Tolstol's Philosophy of Religion."

Mr. John Scurr's lectures "The Growth of the English People," on Wednesday evenings, at 8.30 prompt, in the Women's Hall, 20 Railway Street, Poplar, E.

Nov. 18th. "The Industrial Revolution."

" 22nd. "The Triumph of the Middle Class."

" 22nd. "The Triumph of the Middle Class."

" 29th. "The Uplift of Labour."

Every Thursday in October and November, At Homes are held at Chandos Hall (21a Maiden Lane, close to Eustace Miles' Restaurant). We hope that members and friends will make a point of attending. Admission free.

November 16th, Mrs. K. Outhwaite, "The Land Question." Mr. Jaakoff Prelooker, "Patriotism—Natural and Political." Chair, Mrs. Bouvier.

November 23rd, Mrs. H. C. Campbell, "Woman and Internationalism." Mr. L. Ginnell, M.P., "Irish Aspirations." Chair: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.

Bow Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, E. Public meeting, November 12th, at 4 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Bessie Ward, Mr. John Arnall, "Morocco as I Knew it." Chair: Mrs. Bouvier. Music. Admission free. Tea at popular prices.

Saturday, November 18th, 3.30 p.m. Chandos Hall, 21a Maiden Lane, W.C. (off Bedford Street, Strand), Reading by Mr. Miles Malleon. Admission by ticket—Price 6d. Tickets can be obtained from the Ticket Secretary, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

To form a branch at the Hampstead Garden Suburb and district, a meeting will be held at 1a Arcade House, Temple Fortune, Monday, November 20th, 8 p.m. Speaker, Miss Lynch; chair, Miss Ascher. Admission free.

CAXTON HALL EXHIBITION

The Exhibition to be held in the Caxton Hall on December 7th, 8th, and 9th, from 3 to 10 daily will include:—Sweated Industries Section, arranged by Mrs. Savoy and Dr. Tchaykovsky; Food Prices Exhibit, arranged by Miss E. Dyce Sharpe and Mrs. Drake; Mothercraft Exhibit; Dalcroze Demonstration, arranged by the London School of Dalcroze Eurythmics; Montessori Demonstration and Lecture by Miss Muriel Matters, who has studied with Dr. Maria Montessori in Spain; Concert: artistes, Miss Maria Levinsky, dancer from Margaret Morris School of Dance, Mr. Carlo Liten; Pageant will be arranged by Dr. Harry Schütze. The Exhibition will be opened on the first day by Mr. Israel Zangwill, on the second day by Mr. Hogge, M.P., who has worked so hard to secure adequate pensions and allowances for the soldiers and sailors and their wives and relatives, and on the third day by Miss Emily Hobhouse, whose international work and sympathies are well known, Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky in the chair. Other speakers will include Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Mr. R. L. Outhwaite, M.P., Miss Susan Lawrence, Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Bouvier, Mr. George Lansbury, and Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. The East London Co-operative Toy Factory will sell its charming toys.

Another feature will be a Photographic Exhibition, entrance fee for exhibits 2s. 6d. Mr. E. O. Hoppé, F.R.P.S., will act as judge and award prizes. The services of a good photographer for the exhibition are needed.

The stalls are:—

Children's Garments.
General Garments, Mrs. Cole.
Antiques.
Fancy Goods, Miss Olive Clapson.
Groceries, Mrs. Gow and Miss Aspland.
Fruit and Flowers, Mrs. Way.
Farm Produce, Lady Avice Sackville and Miss Barbara Lutyens.
Sweets, Miss Helsby.
Refreshments and Teas, Mrs. Sadd-Brown.
Toys, East London Toy Factory.
Books and General Literature, Miss Mackay and Miss Gore Brown.

Contributions are still needed for these stalls, and friends are asked to send in same by December 1st, also offers of help.

Communications should be addressed to the Exhibition Secretary, Miss Sonia Rodker, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

CHANDOS HALL

At the W.S.F. Chandos Hall meeting on Thursday afternoon, November 2nd, Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST, dealing with the franchise debate in Parliament, said that suffragists must not expect action in Parliament which did not spring from activity by suffragists outside. The anti-conscription vote had come as a message to us to trust the people and to have confidence in adult suffrage. She suggested that a cable of congratulations should be sent to the Australian women. The suggestion was adopted, the audience subscribing to pay for it.

Miss EVELYN SHARP gave an interesting address on the "Preponderance of Women." She pointed out in some constituencies there would be a majority of women and in others a majority of men: the women would not all vote alike.

Mr. HOBSON said it was matter for congratulation that the immense majority of the women who had received their political education in the suffrage movement were pacifists and were able to hold fast to their desire for freedom, not merely in relation to the franchise, but on every question of the day. The present demand for a trade war after the military war was highly dangerous; if persisted in it would lead to another war at an early date. It was inimical to the idea of the League to Enforce Peace, which is advocated by Viscount Grey, and to Mr. Asquith's professed desire for the enthronement of the idea of international right.

Bound Volumes I and II of "Woman's Dreadnought" shortly ready, price 6/6 each. To be obtained at 400 Old Ford Road, London, E.

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—Sale of ring, per Mrs. Lansbury, £5; Wimbledon W.S.P.U., per Mrs. Lamartine Yates, £1 1s.; Mr. N. J. Woods, £1; Miss Feek, 15s. 6d.; Miss Mabel Conner, 10s.; Mr. and Mrs. Plant, 10s.; Miss Lowy (monthly), 10s.; Miss M. D. Kemp (monthly), 4s.; Mrs. Paddon, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Hart (profit on tea), 2s. 3d.; The Misses Le Pla, 2s.; Mrs. Brimley, 1s.; Miss Margaret Smith, 1s. COLLECTIONS: Food Reform Restaurant, £1 6s. 9d.; Chandos Hall, 19s. 6d.; Mrs. Walker, 14s. 11d.; Walthamstow B.S.P. Meeting (per Miss Pankhurst), 10s.; Bow Women's Hall, 5s.; Barking, 4s. 11d.; Mrs. Cressall, 4s.; Poplar Women's Hall, 1s. 1d.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—Mrs. Payne, £50; Miss O'Brien, profit on Social, £3 5s.; Contessa Tomasi Isolani, 13s. 6d.; Devotee National Economy, 10s.; Mrs. Page, 4s. 6d.; Ronald Macfie, Esq., 3s.; Mrs. and Miss Casey, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Timkay, 2s. 3d.; Miss T. W. Newsome (monthly), 1s. Mrs. Sadler, 3d.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Dr. Hartley, £2 10s.; Miss Florence Roberts, £2; Mrs. Baillie Weaver (monthly), £2; A Doctor at the Front (dentist's chair), £1 10s.; The Misses Mann (monthly), £1; Baron de Forest, £1; Miss G. L. Smyth (monthly), £1; Nurse Hebbes, 12s.; Mrs. Eric Hambro (Montessori), 10s.; Miss Lilian Edger (as 6d. monthly), 5s.; Mrs. Heywood Bright (weekly), 5s.; The Misses Barrowman (monthly), 5s.; Miss Crabb (monthly), 3s. 6d.; Mrs. Sadler, 2s. 6d.; D. Wilkie, Esq. (monthly), 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Pethick, 2s. 6d.; Miss Bellamy (monthly), 2s. 6d.; Ronald, 2s.; A Friend (farthings), 8d. COLLECTIONS: L.S.A. Tool Room, £1 13s. 11d.; L.S.A. Stocking Dept., 16s. 6d.; Misses Lynch and Lagsding (Green's Yard), 11s. 1d.; Misses D. Morley and E. Lagsding (Cubitt Town), 9s. 7d.; Mothers at Bromley Clinic (monthly), 6s. 8d.; Collecting Box, 4s. 3d.; Arthur Griffiths, Esq., 3s.; "Don," 1s. 6d.

EXHIBITION.—Mrs. Lowy, £1 1s.; Proprietors "Mother's Magazine," £1 1s.; Miss Mackenzie, £1 1s.; Madame Colaco-Osorio, 10s.; Mrs. Baillie Weaver, 5s.; Miss E. K. Russell, 1s. 6d.

Mrs. Lowy, parcel fancy goods; Miss Minnie Ling, parcel fancy goods.

Mrs. Thomas, curtain bands.

Mrs. Ferne, baby's gown.

Mr. and Mrs. Pascoe, tea.

Mrs. Dodge, pincushion and cushion cover.

Mrs. Boyce, children's garments.

CLOTHES.—Mrs. G. Young, Anon., Mrs. Hector, Anon.

EGGS.—Lady Margaret Sackville.

GROCERIES.—Hampstead National Food Fund.

NATURE SPECIMENS.—Miss Greer, Mrs. Sinclair.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

THE MOTHERS' ARMS.

438 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW.

Day nursery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Mondays, 3.30 p.m. Mothers and babies can consult Nurse at any time.

20 RAILWAY STREET, POPLAR

(opposite South Bromley Station).

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Tuesdays, 3 p.m. Nurse may be seen at any time.

53 ST. LEONARD'S STREET, BROMLEY-BY-BOW.

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Tuesdays, 3 p.m.

124 BARKING ROAD, CANNING TOWN.

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Tuesdays, 4 p.m.

All mothers and children are welcome.

COST PRICE RESTAURANTS at 400 Old Ford Road, and 20 Railway Street. Dinners from 12 till 2 p.m. daily.

WANTS.

Subscriptions to the milk and food fund. Doctoring and nursing can help little if mothers and children are unable to obtain the nourishment that is ordered.

New laid eggs, barley, glaxo, virol, for invalids. Medicine bottles, clothing and shoes for adults and boys and girls of all ages.

For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

Growing plants, flowers and branches for all our centres and for the L.C.C. schools. We should be grateful to friends who would supply us regularly. We also need vegetables and fruit.

More cupboards are needed at all our centres.

Nurse needs empty medicine bottles at her dispensary.

Health Talks to Mothers are held the first and third Fridays in the month at 3 p.m., at the Mothers' Arms.

MR. FINEBERG'S LECTURE.

On Friday, November 3rd, at the Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, Mr. J. Fineberg (B.S.P.) gave a well-reasoned and interesting address on the "Theory of Karl Marx." Although the lecturer, in his introductory remarks, said that it was impossible to deal with such a vast subject in the short space of an hour, he made the most of that hour and gave his audience a very lucid exposé of Scientific Socialism. A lively discussion followed. Mr. Fineberg promised to come again, and to deal with "Utopian Socialism" in his next lecture. Mrs. Bouvier was in the chair. There was a fair attendance in spite of the very inclement weather.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

POPULATION QUESTION & BIRTH CONTROL.—Post free, 14d.—Malthusian League, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.

WANTED, LEARNER for East London Toy Factory; also Cutter.—Apply, 45 Norman Road, Bow, E.

TO LET, Unfurnished Bed-Sitting Room, near Grove Road, quiet, recommended. Members.—Box 62.

FRENCH LADY, widow, speaks and writes English, seeks WORK, not clerical.—Apply, Box 10, this Office.

RESPECTABLE WOMAN is offered place as caretaker and cleaner.—Apply, 45 Norman Road, Bow, E.

"The Birthrate."

Notes and Views on the Report of the National Birth-rate Commission, by E. Sylvia Pankhurst. Price 1d. 9d. per dozen.

Printed by the Blackburn Press Ltd., 74 Seinton St., London, W.C. and Published by the Workers' Suffrage Federation, at their Offices, 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, E. Printed by T.U. labour in all departments (48 hour week), on Trade Union Made Paper.